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072 NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. DO PRESENT FARM STOCKS OF GRAINS EXCEED LAST YEAR'S STOCKS?
2. WERE BROILER PLACEMENTS IN DECEMBER EQUAL TO OTHER MONTHS?
3. COMPARE 1950 POTATO ACREAGE INTENTIONS WITH 10-YEAR AVERAGE.
4. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE 1949 GRAIN SURVEY?
5. HOW DOES THE FARM CENSUS AID THE FARMER?
6. COMPARE LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER IN NOVEMBER 1949 WITH NOVEMBER 1948.
7. WHY ARE STOCKS OF SOYBEANS ON FARMS SO LOW THIS YEAR?
8. GIVE THE INDICATED TREND OF FARM LAND VALUES.
9. HOW MANY LAYERS WERE ON NORTH CAROLINA FARMS IN DECEMBER?
10. COMPARE 1949 LEGUME SEED PRICES WITH 1948.

No. 53

RALEIGH, N. C.

JANUARY 16, 1950

JANUARY 1, 1950 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL SITUATION FAVORABLE

Weather conditions during the month of December continued favorable for fall farming activities. This State has experienced one of the most favorable fall harvesting seasons for a number of years. Farmers have taken full advantage of the open and mild weather and farm work is well advanced in all areas.

A small amount of corn still remains in fields in some sections but the proportion of total acreage not yet harvested is very small. Lespedeza seed, peanuts, soybeans and corn were gathered rapidly and most of these crops were out of the way earlier than usual.

Soil moisture supplies are adequate for current needs in all areas and temperatures have been mostly favorable--if anything much too warm. Small grains are coming along in fairly good shape. Cooler temperatures are needed to hold these crops in check and keep fruit trees dormant to avoid a recurrence of freeze damage experienced last year which developed out of a very mild winter followed by severe late spring freezes.

Pastures have held up unusually well and are still providing good grazing. This has held supplemental feeding requirements to a minimum.

FARM GRAIN STOCKS SECOND LARGEST IN PAST TEN YEARS

As of January 1 on-farm supplies of grains (corn, wheat, oats, barley, and rye) in North Carolina totaled 57,894,000 bushels. This was the second largest farm stocks for this date during the past ten years. Stocks were only slightly larger on January 1, 1948, which was due to a much better wheat crop in 1947 compared with 1949.

On-farm corn supplies amounted to 52,870,000 bushels, 10.2 percent larger than on January 1 a year ago, 1.4 percent greater than in 1948 and 39.2 percent above the 10-year (1939-48) average. Disappearance from farms has been at about the same rate as a year ago.

Stocks of small grains on North Carolina farms January 1 totaled 5,024,000 bushels of which about 27 percent was wheat, 66 percent oats, 6 percent barley, and about 1 percent rye. Total small grains stocks were 5.5 percent greater than on the same date a year ago

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BROILER PLACEMENTS DROP SHARPLY IN DECEMBER

Placements of chicks with commercial broiler producers in the Chatham and Wilkes Areas amounted to 1,007,000 during December, according to reports received from hatcherymen and dealers serving these areas. This is 29.8 percent less than placements for the previous month and 30.4 percent under placements during December a year ago. Reports from the individual areas indicate that 864,000 of the total chicks placed went into the Chatham area with the remaining 343,000 chicks being placed with producers in the Wilkes area.

Hatcherymen serving the two areas reported 1,498,000 eggs set and 1,146,000 chicks hatched in December. Output for the month showed a drop of 207,000 eggs set and 551,000 chicks hatched under operations during November. Eggs set during December of 1949 were 20 percent less than in December a year earlier while chicks hatched

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OUR LAND IS OUR HERITAGE - CONSERVE IT

SOYBEAN STOCKS LOW

Stocks of soybeans on North Carolina farms as of January 1, 1950 amounted to 1,465,000 bushels. This is about 37 percent below the 2,317,000 bushels on farms a year earlier and compares with the 1943-48 average of 1,451,000 bushels.

The low stocks on North Carolina farms compared with a year ago resulted primarily from early sales. Heavy sales of the 1949 crop early in the season were possible since conditions during the fall months were very favorable for early harvest. Actually production of beans from the 1949 crop was about 11 percent greater than from the 1948 crop.



COMMERCIAL APPLE PRODUCTION, BY VARIETIES

VARIETIES	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	PRODUCTION					
	AVERAGE 1942-47	1948	1949	AVERAGE 1942-47	1948	1949
	- THOUSAND BUSHELS -					
GRAVENSTEIN.....	-	-	-	2,835	1,969	3,193
OTHER SUMMER VARIETIES..	16	10	4	3,149	2,423	3,589
TOTAL SUMMER VARIETIES	16	10	4	5,984	4,392	6,782
GRIMES GOLDEN.....	14	29	27	2,183	2,053	3,033
JONATHAN.....	8	10	4	7,822	6,538	10,231
WEALTHY.....	-	-	-	2,042	2,090	2,647
OTHER FALL VARIETIES...	38	39	4	2,629	1,956	2,795
TOTAL FALL VARIETIES..	60	78	35	14,676	12,637	18,706
BALDWIN.....	-	-	-	3,642	1,811	5,225
BEN DAVIS AND GANO.....	23	19	4	2,348	1,558	2,729
BLACK TWIG (PARAGON)...	46	29	14	889	440	899
CORTLAND.....	-	-	-	1,409	1,958	3,158
DELICIOUS.....	174	127	90	20,994	18,028	27,790
GOLDEN DELICIOUS.....	76	117	72	2,427	2,530	3,453
MCINTOSH.....	-	-	-	9,006	8,557	14,356
NORTHERN SPY.....	-	-	-	1,756	1,271	2,660
ROME BEAUTY.....	46	98	40	6,187	6,019	8,258
STAYMAN.....	172	263	72	5,486	3,022	5,269
WINESAP.....	51	59	32	11,893	9,911	12,226
R. I. GREENING.....	-	-	-	2,000	1,740	3,910
YORK IMPERIAL.....	18	20	4	5,626	5,394	4,481
YELLOW NEWTOWN.....	-	-	-	4,489	3,750	5,098
OTHER WINTER VARIETIES..	141	156	81	6,872	5,389	8,181
TOTAL WINTER VARIETIES	747	888	409	85,024	71,378	107,693
TOTAL ALL VARIETIES....	823	976	448	105,684	88,407	133,181

Cold storage holdings of apples on December 1, 1948, were about 53 percent larger than stocks a year earlier from short 1948 crop.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATO INTENTIONS

According to reports as of January 1, 1950, commercial early Irish potato growers in North Carolina intend to plant 23,500 acres of the crop this year. If these intentions materialize, the 1950 acreage will be about 2 percent less than the 24,000 acres harvested in 1949 and approximately 31 percent below the 10-year (1939-48) average acreage. Furthermore, this would mean that the current years commercial acreage in the State would be the lowest in 25 years.

For all States in the commercial early group (competing States that sell the crop at about the same time), the 1950 intended acreage at 133,800 acres is about 3 percent less than the acreage harvested in 1949. A reduction in allotments is the primary factor accounting for the decrease in acreage to be planted this year. The 10 year average acreage for the commercial early group of states is 177,010 acres.

Of the total commercial early acreage to be planted this year, California growers' intentions are to plant 60,000 acres of it.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES
INTENDED PLANTINGS FOR 1950

STATE	ACREAGE			INTENDED ACRES AS PERCENT OF 1949	YIELD PER ACRE	
	1939-48 AVERAGE	1949	1950 INTENDED		1939-48 AVERAGE	1949
	<u>-ACRES-</u>				<u>-BUSHEL-</u>	
LATE SPRING:						
NORTH CAROLINA	33,850	24,000	23,500	98	154	210
CALIFORNIA....	55,200	66,000	60,000	91	346	455
LOUISIANA.....	22,800	9,500	9,500	100	68	71
MISSISSIPPI....	3,450	800	800	100	86	80
ALABAMA.....	24,260	14,400	15,800	110	117	150
GEORGIA.....	2,730	1,100	1,200	109	109	150
SOUTH CAROLINA	13,300	6,500	7,500	115	136	160
TEXAS.....	8,340	7,300	6,900	94	67	80
OKLAHOMA.....	3,190	1,400	1,300	93	91	140
ARKANSAS.....	5,210	3,500	3,300	94	90	85
TENNESSEE.....	4,780	4,000	4,000	100	113	120
GROUP TOTAL...	117,010	138,500	133,800	97	189	294

JANUARY MEANS FARM CENSUS

There are 300,000 North Carolina land owners who are due to report their 1949 crop acreages (not taxable) when they give in their taxable information. County farm statistics are dependent on these direct farmer source reports.

Our statisticians are now visiting counties in various parts of the state talking with agricultural workers, county officials, and farmers. They are participating in the actual listing of the farm reports to learn the time it takes, the farmers' reactions, the listers' complaints, and any interferences with the listing of taxables.

It is well known that the farm census is essential to county program planning. This has been well justified by the past 32 years' surveys and developments. Proven evidences of needs, reliability, usages, and returned values on the counties' investments, are well established.

All fourteen farm census states use their tax assessing machinery for collecting their farm census. This is because it is most convenient for farmers, who also know their listers, and anticipate these reports; it provides established official handling at lowest costs. The extra farm reports work can be compensated for at far less cost than through any other agency. The agricultural workers all operate under federal jurisdiction, and as such, cannot be made responsible for local laws. Too, such services would be too expensive and would sacrifice purposeful services to farmers, whereas the listers are available. These justifications are well established in all other farm census states.

North Carolina's initiative and leadership in this direct farmer judgment basis of county farm facts is admired and envied by every other southern state. It has yielded our farmers quite definite, enviable, and valuable advantages through proving maximum county allotments.

Of the many real money making and saving values of the farm census, the greatest value of all can't be measured in mere dollars. It is the adult farmer thinking rewards. Year after year he inventorially thinks through and anticipates his farm report. Thus he mentally reviews his past few years farm management, and with it his future plans. He is thus enabled to determine his weak and strong practices. Then he confers with his local agricultural workers for their judgment and advice.

Yes, the farm census caused thinking habit has yielded North Carolina farmers more real "returns" than has any other value, even their allotment advantages.

LEGUME SEED PRICES DECLINE

United States average prices received by growers for alfalfa, red clover, and sweet clover seed on December 15 were higher than the 1943-47 average for that date. Lespedeza and Sudan-grass seed prices, however, were below the average. Compared with last year, prices were off for all except sweet clover seed which was the highest on record.

The record 1949 crop of alfalfa seed, estimated at 1,895,700 bushels of thresher run seed, is 81 percent larger than the 1948 crop and 44 percent above the 1938-47 average. Production of red clover seed is 29 percent below 1948. The lespedeza seed crop, estimated at 244,600,000 pounds of thresher run seed, is the second largest crop ever harvested. It exceeds the 1948 production by 2 percent and the 1943-47 average by 42 percent.

Movement of the 1949 crops of alfalfa, red clover, sweet clover, and Sudan-grass seed from farms has been faster than in 1948 and also faster than the 1943-47 average.

FARM LAND VALUES DROP 6 PERCENT

Farm land values declined 6 percent during the year ending November, 1949. This is the first significant drop that has occurred since 1932-33. The national index declined to 167 (1912-14=100), 3 percent below last July and 5 percent below March.

North Carolina was one of the five states in which values continued to increase, but this increase was only 2 percent. There was no change in land values in the state during the last four months of the period. Present dollar value of farm land in North Carolina shows an increase of 164 percent over the 1935-39 average.

Present indications are that 1949 will be the third consecutive year in which the volume of sales has declined in the nation. Farms sold at the rate of 58 per 1000 during the peak year, 1946-47, but the rate dropped to 49 per 1000 during 1947-48, and to 41 per 1000 during the year ended March, 1949.

An increasing number of prospective buyers apparently are waiting for more substantial declines in asking prices than have thus far occurred. At the same time, present owners have not shown an inclination to increase the amount of farm land offered for sale even though it is apparent that the peak in market values is past. In the better farming areas there is little incentive to sell as long as farm land continues to yield a higher rate of returns than most alternative investments. Consideration of the amount of tax on capital gains is also a factor in many cases.

SLAUGHTER OF HOGS UP SEASONALLY

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina, including slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter, but excluding farm slaughter, during November remained the same as October for cattle and calves but increased by 8,800 head of hogs. Slaughter of cattle, calves, sheep and lambs during November of 1949 was considerable less than November of 1948 (see table below). Commercial slaughter of hogs during November was the same in both years.

Livestock slaughter for the period January through November of 1949 was significantly less for all species than slaughter during the same period in 1948. The number of head of cattle slaughtered in 1949 during January through November equaled 66 percent of cattle slaughtered during the same period in 1948. Hog slaughter from January through November of 1949 was only 5 percent less than slaughter during the same period in 1948.

NORTH CAROLINA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER*

SPECIES	NOVEMBER				JANUARY-NOVEMBER TOTAL			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	HEAD (THOUSANDS)		POUNDS (THOUSANDS)		HEAD (THOUSANDS)		POUNDS (THOUSANDS)	
CATTLE	10.7	7.7	8,437	6,491	113.2	74.2	86,943	61,074
CALVES	8.2	4.3	1,364	695	119.9	67.6	18,784	11,094
SHEEP & LAMBS	.3	.2	30	14	3.9	2.3	338	186
HOGS...	35.0	35.0	7,541	8,299	322.0	306.0	70,924	68,660

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

The 1949 cotton crop was the 8th largest on record - 16,034,000 bales.

PRELIMINARY RELEASE OF NORTH CAROLINA GRAIN SURVEY

During the Fall of 1949 the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, the North Carolina Experiment Station and the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service cooperated in taking an enumerative grain survey. The purpose of this survey was to obtain information, by areas within the State, regarding the production of corn and hay crops, quantity of grains available for sale, uses of hybrid seed corn and method of growing corn, and uses of commercial fertilizer and manure, in order to assist farmers in the various areas of the State in producing their crops more efficiently and in marketing them to the best advantage. A sample survey was designed with the assistance of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, whereby approximately one farm out of every 81 in the State was enumerated. Funds for conducting the survey were made available by the Production and Marketing Administration under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, and by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. The survey was conducted jointly by these agencies and the North Carolina Cooperative Crop Reporting Service.

Although a complete report of the findings of this survey will not be available until later this year, certain preliminary information is being released at this time. One feature of the survey was the collection of actual samples of corn from selected fields, which provided an indication of average yields per acre. A sample of corn was taken from each ten acres of corn to be harvested for grain on farms in selected areas of each county. Each sample was weighed and moisture content determined. The indicated average yield of corn for the State as a whole as computed from the survey data was about 41 bushels per acre. The corn yields computed from this survey differ from official estimates since they relate to gross yields per acre or total production at the time the survey was made (September and October 1949). Therefore, losses due to bad weather, destruction by animals, and all other losses which occurred between the time the survey was made and the time the corn was put in the crib, (including harvesting losses) are included in these calculated yields. These and other factors should be taken into account when comparing this indicated yield with the official yield for the State as released by the North Carolina Cooperative Crop Reporting Service. Another survey will be made in January 1950 to determine the extent of these differences.

The survey also indicated that approximately 31 percent of the 1949 corn acreage was planted with hybrid seed, which is about the same as the official estimate released in July 1949.

AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES TOO LITTLE UNDERSTOOD

On January 5th a USDA county council of agricultural workers was held at Dobson, Surry County. There were 34 present. The state statistician was the main speaker. Several of those present emphasized the point that the chief problem with statistics is education, or the understanding and usages of such economic farm information.

All agreed that agricultural estimates are absolutely essential for all of their programs, but few understand how they are developed or how they are used or how they may be evaluated. Our high schools should have elementary courses in farm management and economic information. Certainly every graduate of an agricultural college should be familiar with agricultural estimates.

If farmers only knew it, agricultural estimates and economic practices are right up their alley, since the information supplied through agricultural estimates makes their long range farm planning possible.

FARM REPORT

Authorized By The
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief

and published by the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L.Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released Semi-Monthly Through The
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Frank Parker, Statistician in Charge
Donald B. Jones, Editor

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

JANUARY 16, 1950

FARM REPORT

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DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION HIGHEST OF RECORD

Hens on North Carolina farms laid 55 million eggs in December, 5 percent more than production during November and virtually the same increase over the 52 million eggs laid in December of last year. Egg production for the month is the highest of record.

For the entire year 1949 egg production in North Carolina totaled 1,009 million eggs, 9 percent more than in 1948 but only 2 percent above production in 1947. The increase over last year was due to a higher rate of lay plus an increase in the number of layers on farms.

Egg production per layer in December was 8.82 eggs, compared with 8.5 in November and 8.85 eggs during December of 1948. North Carolina farm laying flocks averaged 8,068,000 layers in December, or about 414,000 more layers than were on farms during the same month a year ago.

RECORD LEVEL MILK PRODUCTION HOLDS DESPITE SEASONAL DECLINE

Production of milk on North Carolina farms during the month of December totaled 118 million pounds, a decline of 3 percent from production during November. However, milk production during December, 1949 was 5 percent above that for December 1948.

Milk production per cow in herd during December totaled 330 pounds compared with 340 pounds last month and 318 pounds for December a year ago.

An average of 359,000 milk cows, both dry and in milk, were on farms in North Carolina during December.

FARM GRAIN STOCKS (Continued)

but were about 8 percent less than the 10-year average.

For the Nation near-record stocks of 2.4 billion bushels of corn, including much under loan from both 1948 and 1949 crops, remained on farms January 1. Combining these with stocks of other feed grains, the feed supply on farms is second only to that of January 1, 1949, both in total and per animal unit, although wheat stocks on farms are the lowest for January 1 since 1941.

BROILER PLACEMENTS (Continued)

showed a 21 percent drop under hatchings for the same month of 1948.

Chick placements with broiler producers in the Chatham and Wilkes Areas for 1949 totaled 17.8 million. Producers in the Chatham area received 11 million of the total placements with the remaining 6.8 million chicks going to growers in the Wilkes area. During the last six months of 1949 there were 7.9 million baby chicks placed in the combined areas.

DECEMBER WEATHER SUMMARY

There were no outstanding features of the weather during December, except temperatures were warmer than usual for a winter month. April-like weather prevailed on several different days followed quickly by days more typical of winter. Average temperatures over the State for the month were 3 to 4 degrees above normal. However, there were about 7 days with freezing temperatures in the Coastal Plains and 15 or more in western sections. Total precipitation amounts were about 2 inches below long-time averages at most places in the State. The greater part of the month's rainfall came during a 10-day period at the middle of the month, but most individual daily amounts were light. Snow fell for an hour or more on the 15th in the counties extending from Charlotte northeastward across the State to Elizabeth City. While the amounts were light at most places and the snow melted quickly, it was the first snow for the season in that area.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING DECEMBER, 1949

